

IS THE SALMON FLY IMPORTANT

For most salmon fishers the hardest decision is “what fly today?”

Before we select which fly to use, there are a multitude of important points to consider before we tie our fly to the leader.

For instance:

- fly size,
- colour
- weight
- hook double / single
- tube / conehead
- heavy / lightly dressed
- speed & depth
- presentation

All of these are influenced by water conditions ie-water height, water temperature, depth and speed of current, water clarity clear or coloured? Also weather needs to be taken into consideration. is it cloudy, bright wind rain etc.

Are the fish fresh into the river or old coloured residents. Which flyline tips leader length & strength.

A general rule of thumb is high cold water big fly with heavy tips.

Warm low water small flies lightly dressed fished near the surface.

Apropos to this a large sunray up to 4in long can catch fish, stripped fast across the current.

This is all learned through river craft and years of experience on the riverbank, once you master this you can go to any salmon river and be confident in your fly selection and presentation.

So is the fly important?

in my opinion “definitely” as it is the only thing a fish should see!!

Hopefully these few pointers will help in your fly selection even if it helps to give a bit more thought into which fly, rather than just an arbitrary i’ll use this it looks nice.

Tight lines for 2023.

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